

# Housing and Redevelopment Authority Resolution

H2021-003

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**Sponsor:** Community & Economic Development

**Meeting Date:** 5/4/2021

**Title:** Environmental Response Fund Grant Awards

**File Number:** 2021-212

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**Background and Rationale:**

In 1997, the Minnesota legislature enacted Minnesota Statutes Section 383A.80 enabling Ramsey County to impose a mortgage registry and deed taxes equal to .0001 percent of the value of transferred properties in Ramsey County to establish an environmental response fund. In December 2002, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners imposed these taxes for the express purpose of creating a fund to mitigate contamination and foster redevelopment. Applications for Environmental Response Fund (ERF) program funding are accepted twice each year in conjunction with similar redevelopment and clean-up programs administered by the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Metropolitan Council.

Two (2) Environmental Response Fund applications for funding assistance were submitted for consideration in November 2020 totaling \$220,845. Funds available to award are \$971,703.

Submissions were evaluated based on adopted Ramsey County guidelines including the degree of soil contamination clean-up, financing gap, developer capacity, project readiness and short and long-term benefits to the community of Ramsey County's investment. Applicants are also asked and evaluated on the project's ability to address the following Ramsey County goals: strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being, cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty, and enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses. Community and Economic Development staff recommend awards totaling \$220,845 with the express condition that funding will be withdrawn if not spent within 18 months of approval. Unspent funds may be reallocated to future projects.


**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of Amber Union (2077 Larpenteur Avenue, Falcon Heights) and Frogtown Crossroads (663 University Avenue W, Saint Paul) to receive Environmental Response Funds.
2. Authorize the award of Environmental Response Funds for Amber Union in the amount of \$200,000 and Frogtown Crossroads in the amount of \$20,845.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner MatasCastillo. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

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Abby Goldsmith, Interim Chief Clerk - County  
Board